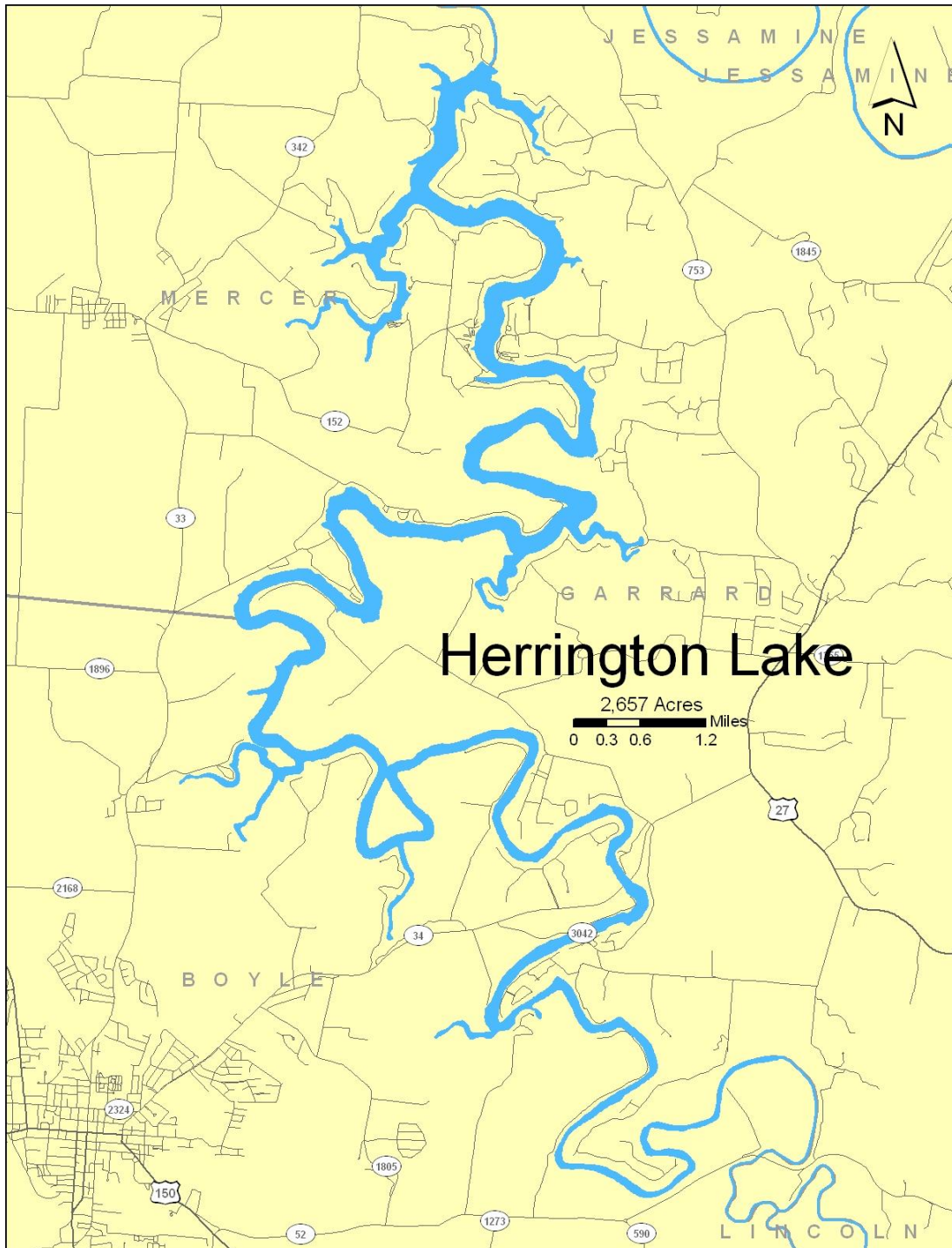


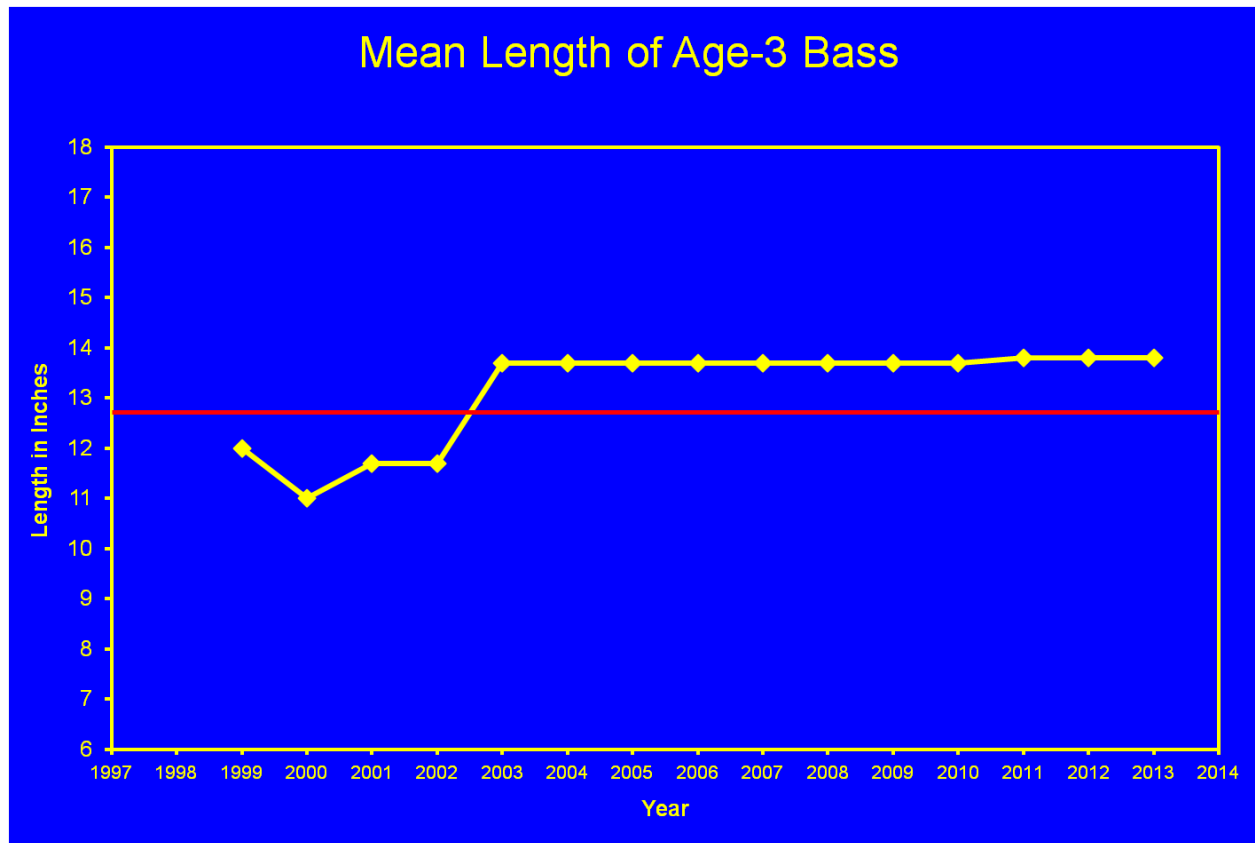
Herrington Lake Bass Assessment 2013

Herrington Lake is a 2,657-acre reservoir owned by Kentucky Utilities and is an impoundment on the Dix River. Herrington Lake was impounded in the late 1920's. The lake has a very popular bass fishery due to its close proximity to Lexington. Past creel surveys have shown that there is heavy fishing pressure for largemouth bass at Herrington Lake. The following graphs show trends and rankings for each of the five population parameters used in the largemouth bass assessment. Please see "Understanding the Largemouth Bass Assessment" article for an explanation. Herrington Lake assessments range over a period of fifteen years.



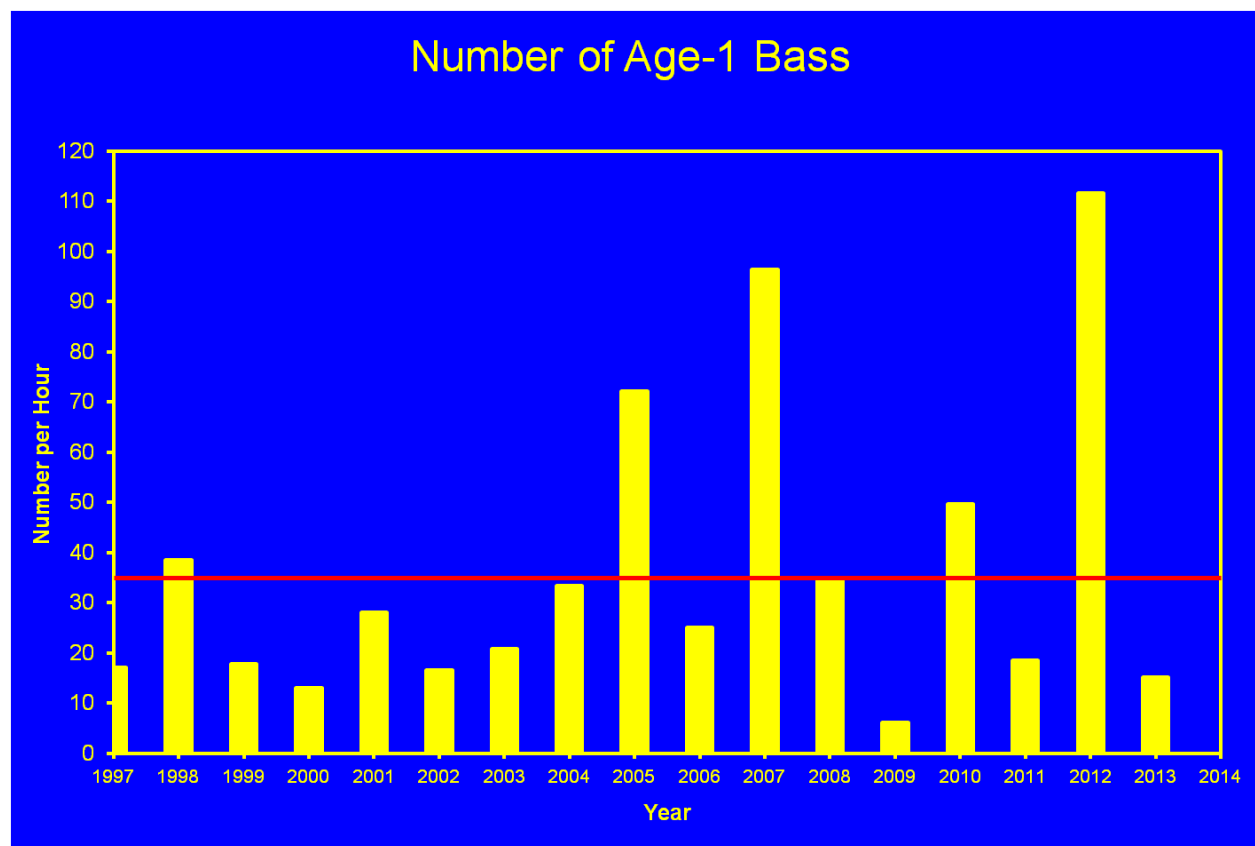
Parameter 1 – Length at age-3 (growth rate)

At Herrington Lake, the length of an age-3 largemouth bass has averaged just less than 13.0 inches since 1991 and is represented by the red line. Compared to other reservoirs of a similar size, on average, largemouth bass generally exhibit good growth at Herrington Lake. Growth rates have ranged from poor to excellent during this period. Growth rate can be variable and is generally related to factors such as population dynamics, food resources, and weather patterns. The last year that KDFWR aged largemouth bass at the lake was 2011 where growth was ranked as being excellent. KDFWR biologists are planning to re-evaluate the growth rates of largemouth bass at Herrington Lake during their 2015 fall sampling.



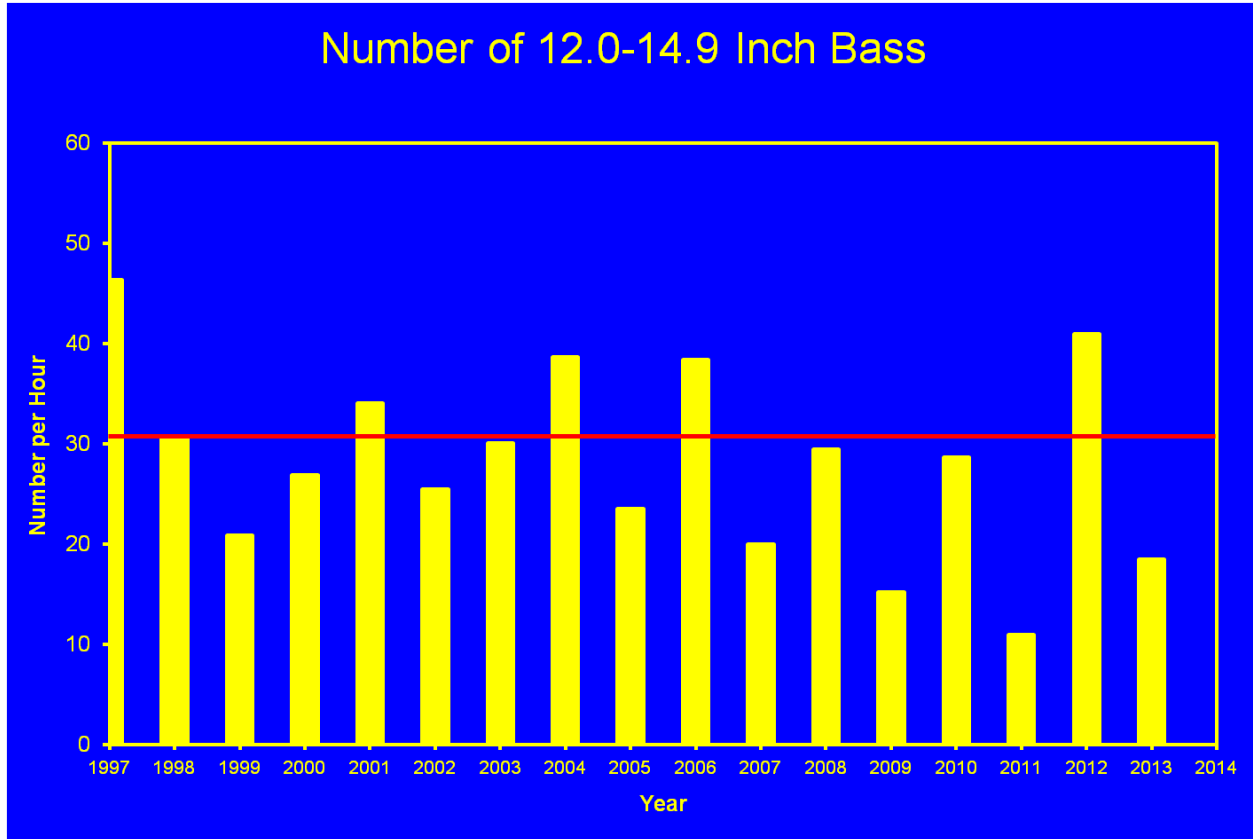
Parameter 2 – Numbers of age-1 bass (how good the spawn was)

KDFWR looks at the catch rates of age-1 largemouth bass to assess the success of the spawn which occurred in the prior year. This is an important parameter because the number of age-1 bass produced represents how good the fishing will be once these fish grow large enough for anglers to catch. At Herrington Lake, age-1 largemouth bass catch rates have averaged around 35.00 bass/hr of electrofishing since 1997 as indicated by the red line. Overall, age-1 bass numbers at Herrington Lake are ranked as being fair compared to other lakes of a similar size. Recruitment was low during the 1990's but the department began buffering the poor reproduction by supplemental stocking of largemouth bass. More age-1 largemouth bass were caught in 2012 than any previous year. Biologists speculate this is due to great sampling conditions and low lake levels. The spring catch of age-1 returned to more typical levels in 2013, and biologists will continue to monitor this parameter and its contribution to the overall bass population.



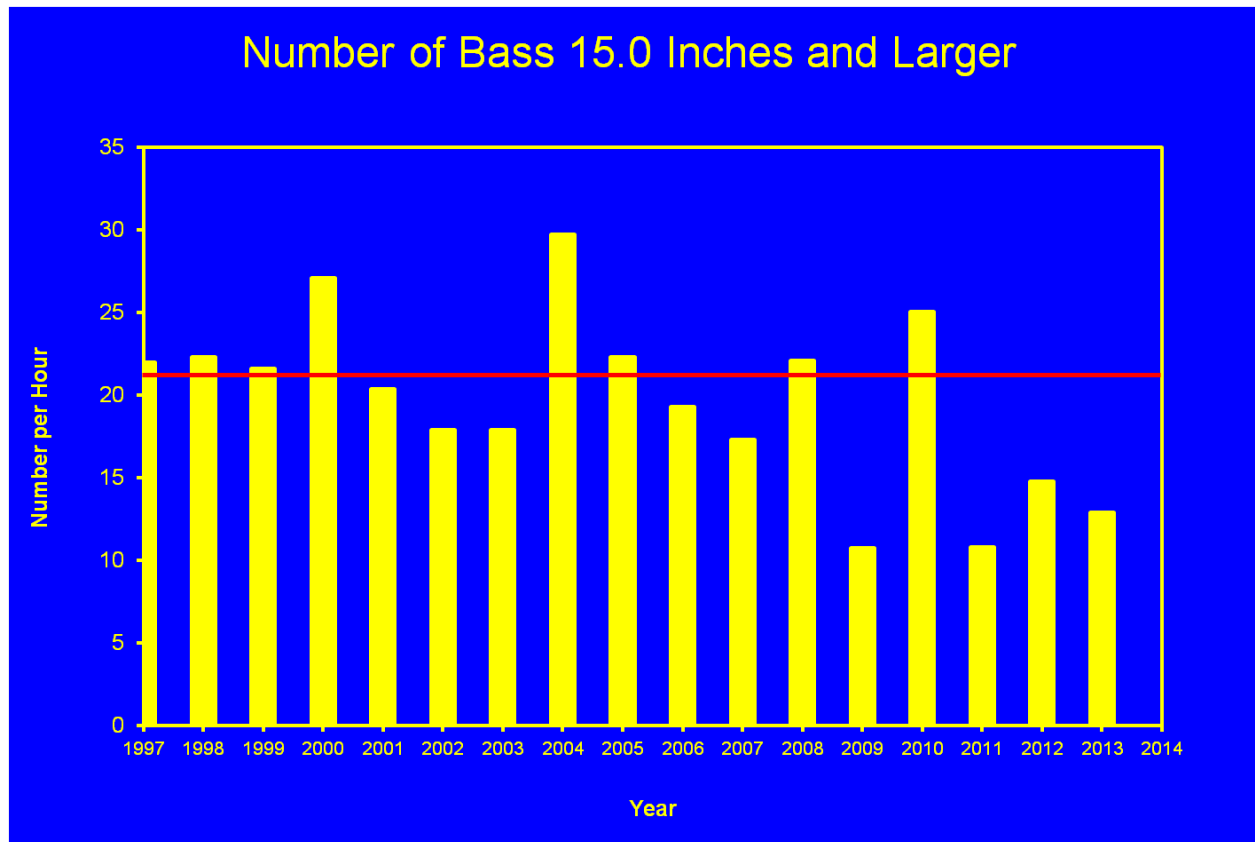
Parameter 3 – Numbers of 12.0-14.9 inch bass

The electrofishing catch of 12.0-14.9 inch largemouth bass has averaged a little over 30.00 fish/hr over the years as indicated by the red line. As compared to other lakes, this is a good catch rate for this size group of bass. Over the past five years, KDFWR biologists have recorded below average catch rates of this size group at Herrington Lake. From 2012 to 2013 numbers in this size range decreased, which may translate into fewer bass in this size range for subsequent years.



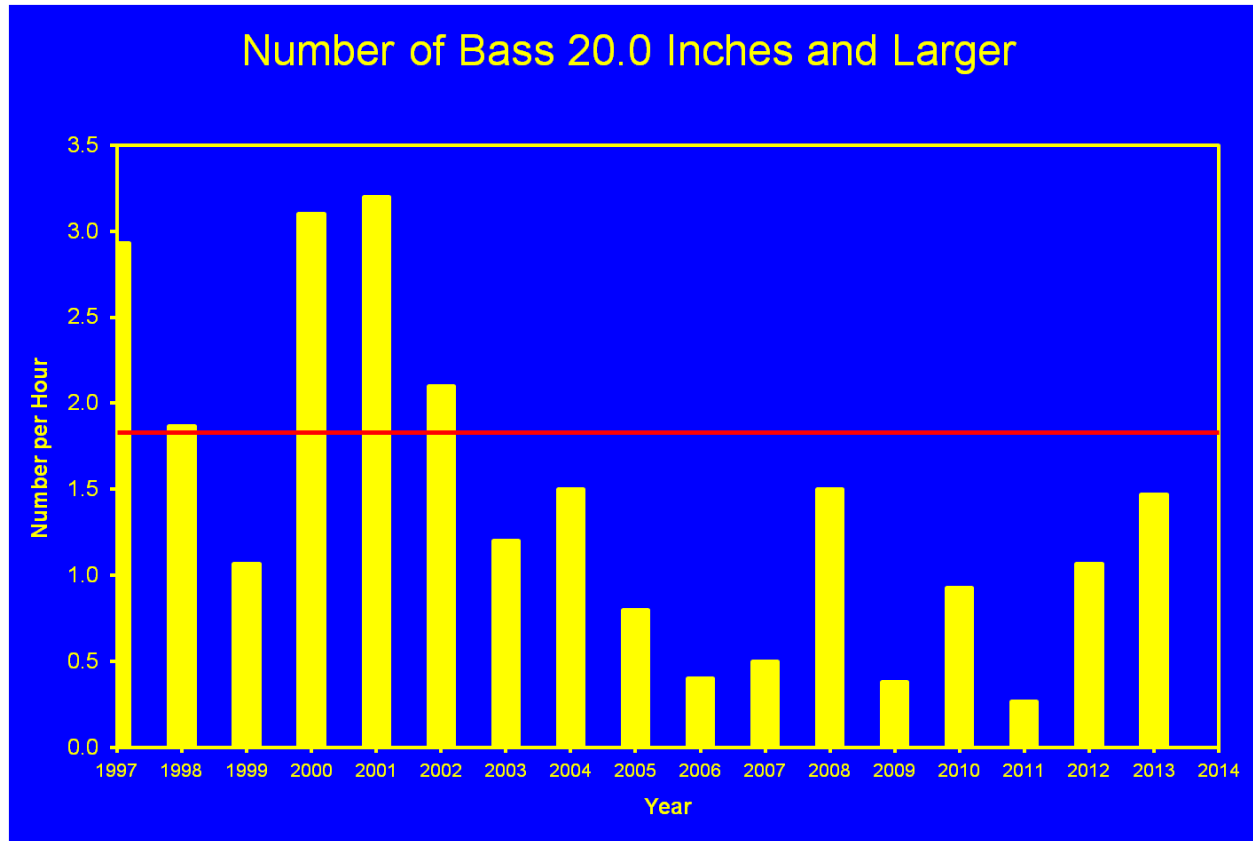
Parameter 4 – Numbers of 15.0 inch and larger bass

Electrofishing catch of 15.0 inch and larger largemouth bass has averaged over 20.0 fish/hr as indicated by the red line. Again, as compared to other lakes, this is an excellent catch rate for this size group. In 2013, biologists observed a lower than normal catch rate of largemouth bass in this size group. These numbers were comparable to 2012 and higher than 2011. Herrington Lake offers many quality sized bass to catch.



Parameter 5 – Numbers of 20.0 inch and larger bass

The electrofishing catch of 20.0 inch and larger largemouth bass have averaged about 1.80 fish/hr since 1994 as indicated by the red line. Compared to other lakes, this is a fair catch rate for this size group. The catch rates of 20.0 inch and larger bass declined in the late 1990's and early 2000, but numbers have made a gradual improvement over the past few years. Numbers in 2013 increased compared to previous years likely due to increases in smaller sized bass found in previous years.



Overall – Total Assessment Score (All five parameters added together)

Overall, the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake has rated “good” since 1994 as indicated by the red line. The largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake has been fairly stable with two fair ratings and the rest good ratings. In 2013, the overall assessment rating for the largemouth bass population at Herrington Lake was good. Biologists expect the future of the largemouth bass fishery at Herrington Lake to continue being strong.

